

## **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REBOOTING NETWORK BRIDGES**

### **ABSTRACT**

Method and apparatus for rebooting a bridge in a network containing a  
5 plurality of bridges. The method includes sending notification to other bridges  
that the bridge will be updated; updating the bridge; restoring a state of the  
network prior to the bridge being updated; and sending notification to the other  
bridges in the network that the update is complete. Sending notification  
includes sending a special bridge protocol data unit along forwarding links  
10 connected to the bridge. The method further includes the other bridges  
initiating a condition of not expecting additional messages from the bridge  
subsequent to the notification of the update and disabling a part of the bridge  
prior to updating. An apparatus includes a forwarding plane adapted to provide  
physical control of ports in the bridge and a control plane adapted for issuing  
15 and executing instructions in accordance with the method that control the  
physical action of the ports.